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**FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ALABAMA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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**SBA Disaster Assistance Requested for Coffee, Jefferson, Montgomery, and Morgan Counties**

**MONTGOMERY** – At the request of Governor Robert Bentley, the Alabama Department of Emergency Management on Monday announced that it has submitted a request for Small Business Administration disaster assistance for Coffee, Jefferson, Montgomery, and Morgan counties due to damage assessments from severe storms and heavy flooding that moved through Alabama on December 24-31, 2015.

As of January 11, 2016, joint damage assessments confirm the following damage in Coffee, Montgomery, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties.

Coffee County

- Homes with major damage: 107
- Homes Destroyed: 20
- Businesses with major damage : 16
- Businesses Destroyed : 4
- Businesses with minor damage: 60

Jefferson County

- Homes with major damage: 34
- Homes with minor damage: 197
- Businesses with major damage: 7

Montgomery (1/6/16)

- Homes with major damage: 26
- Homes with minor damage : 20
- Businesses with major damage: 3

Morgan (1/7/16)

- Homes with major damage: 41
- Homes with minor damage : 37
- Businesses with major damage: 51
- Businesses with minor damage: 1
- Private Non Profit with major damage : 1

The Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster assistance may be in the form of low-interest rate loans for individual and business recovery. SBA's disaster loans are the primary form of federal assistance for nonfarm private sector disaster losses, but are not limited to businesses. Disaster loans from SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund rebuilding. Additional information, including SBA disaster loan fact sheets, can be found on the SBA's website at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

"The December storms and flooding caused damage to homes and businesses in several Alabama communities, and I visited with Alabamians whose homes had been destroyed," Governor Bentley said. "Local and state teams have worked hard to get damage assessments compiled, and based on damage assessed, we are requesting the Small Business Administration help Alabamians in Coffee, Jefferson, Montgomery and Morgan Counties recover and rebuild. Damage assessments for public infrastructure statewide continues. We will continue to closely work with all affected communities across the state to connect people to all available resources."

"First and foremost assistance to our citizens is our top priority," AEMA Director Art Faulkner said. "I am very hopeful that the SBA will grant Governor Bentley's request. We will continue assisting those affected as we await word on this request."